

the cities in which information should be collected and also the outlets.

For example, there was a time when, oh, discount houses became popular so that we had to make sure we had discount houses in the sample although they hadn't been previously.

Now we have the suburbs, so we had to make sure we had enough of our sample in the suburbs. So these things are always being studied, and then periodically, after a certain number of years, there is a basic revision.

Mr. WYDLER. In 1964 was this a significant change in the basic elements of the index?

Mr. Ross. Yes. It was fundamentally reworking of the whole thing. We do it every 10 years, although I suppose if we could write our own ticket and sign our own checks we would like to do it every 5 years but it is an expensive thing and it is up to Congress to decide how often to do this. We do it every 10 years and the next revision is scheduled to go into effect in 1975.

Mr. WYDLER. Well, that is really what I was particularly concerned with. It is done on a regular basis?

Mr. Ross. Oh, yes, Mr. Wydler. I might say, to make a full-scale consumer expenditure survey costs several million dollars for this comprehensive revision.

Mr. WYDLER. Something that bothered the people out where I come from, a suburban area outside of New York City in Nassau and Suffolk County, is the fact that we are lumped in, with the metropolitan central area of New York City. I don't think, in many particular items, that makes too much sense any more. We have an almost totally distinct situation out our way. For example, I know where the Nassau/Suffolk area is in the national picture. We claim now to be the fourth largest marketplace in the country, after three major cities. The Nassau/Suffolk area is the fourth largest consuming area in the United States of America. Yet we are just an appendage or a part of an area. We are not treated in any independent way for the purpose of getting our statistics together and using them. We are lumped in with New York City and are reported in this fashion.

Mr. Ross. Yes.

Mr. WYDLER. It seems to me to be a totally unrealistic viewpoint of the way the United States is developing, and I can't really see how you can justify that—this is a broad question, going to the Department of Labor—but I don't see how that can be justified any more. We want it changed, quite frankly.

Mr. Ross. Yes. I would, without arguing the point, observe this: that primary stress is placed by the administration on the national index.

Mr. WYDLER. For that purpose this makes no difference.

Mr. Ross. The question of local indexes is somewhat controversial and we are permitted to publish them for the 23 areas. Now, within any area there are certain subareas. Certainly anything as vast as the New York City standard metropolitan area does have significant areas. Here again it is really a matter of the total size of the program and a sample. We don't have the sample that would make it possible, aside from the question of policy, to take an area like New York City or to take an area like Washington and distinguish between Anacostia, Bethesda, and downtown Washington, let's say, where there may well